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January 30, 2008

The Honorable Mary Peters Secretary, Department of Transportation 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Peters:

I want to take this opportunity to thank you again for your continued willingness to work with the Commonwealth of Virginia to bring mass transit out the Dulles corridor. This is a critically important transportation project for northern Virginia.

Everyone involved in this project wants to see it succeed, and great strides have been made over the years as the federal government, the Commonwealth of Virginia, the region's local governing bodies and citizens have worked together to develop a plan to better serve the transportation needs of one of the fastest growing regions in the nation.

Following my recent conversation with you, I have asked the Commonwealth to bring in some of the nation's leading transportation experts to help address the concerns raised by both you and the Federal Transit Administration. I am hopeful that the state will follow this advice. This project has come too far – and is far too important – to allow it to collapse at the eleventh hour.

Your willingness to agree to a pause in the decision-making process to give the Commonwealth the opportunity to make the necessary changes that your department has identified is deeply appreciated. I am hopeful that both sides will take the time to work together to make this much-needed project a reality.

